



313th MI Battalion FRG Newsletter



Battalion Homepage: www.bragg.army.mil/afvc-z/

December 2003

Commander's Notes

Dear family and friends of the 313th MI Battalion,

On behalf of CSM Kolenc and myself I want to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season. While I'm certain it is difficult to be away from friends and family during this time, have comfort knowing that we will share each other's camaraderie and the pride that comes with providing a great service to our country. I want you all to know that our paratroopers are doing great. Everyone is working very hard and the results show. I am extremely proud of everyone's individual effort and how each person contributes to the team effort. We are taking care of each other and doing everything possible to keep each other safe.

Fall is finally upon us and the change in weather is turning from refreshing to down right chilly overnight. The temperatures are beginning to drop to the 50s at night and during the day reach the high 70s. We expect this dramatic swing in temperatures to continue on a downward trend through December.

Our quality of life continues to improve daily. The food is getting better and our living conditions continue to improve. Most of us had a great Thanksgiving Dinner this afternoon. The effort by our Kellogg, Brown, and Root (KBR) contractors and volunteer troopers was first class. Everyone has started to break out their winter gear, and we have recently started a winterization effort to make sure we can stay warm this winter. The USO tours have started to come through our area. Last week most of us had the opportunity to see a tour of comedians. It was great to have a couple of good laughs. For example, have any of you ever used the spell checker on your computer and realized that the geniuses that made the program weren't smart enough to help you out and your computer comes up with "no suggestions" for what ever word you have atrociously misspelled? This happens to me a lot. There's plenty more entertainment that will continue through December as we expect to see the All American Band; the USO is also looking at sending a NASCAR tour, and maybe a WWF tour; and country singer Craig Morgan is expected to spend Christmas with us. On most forward operating bases we now have "Haji" gift shops, and we will soon have access to Internet cafes, exercise facilities, libraries, and movie theaters.

A handful of troopers have had the opportunity to go to Qatar for R&R leave and a select few from B Company have gone back to the United States for Environmental Moral Leave. Troopers who have gone on R&R leave report that the Dinning Facility in Qatar rivals that of most restaurants in Fayetteville, that the water spots were great, and that it

was a welcome break from the daily grind.

CSM Kolenc and I spend most of our time at the Division Main Command Post and travel frequently to the Division Rear Command Post, so we see the troopers of HSC and D Company on a regular basis. This past month we also had the opportunity to visit the rest of the battalion seeing B, C, and E Companies. In this environment, soldiers seem to be brutally honest regardless of the questions they are asked. One common theme across the board is that the soldiers are committed to their duty and truly believe in one another and what they are doing. The incredible drive and leadership of our junior NCO team leaders particularly impressed me. It is clear that this is where the real work is accomplished and their successes are feeding the overall success of the battalion and division. We had an incredible sense of pride and shared accomplishment watching a LRS Team Sergeant conduct a rehearsal, a D Co Interrogator conduct a screening, a C Company analyst brief, a B Company GSS Team emplace REMBASS, and a HSC mechanic fix a generator. They are all doing spectacular and are taking care of each and every soldier.

I am extremely proud of our families and FRGs. We know how hard you are working and appreciate everything you do for our paratroopers. I am equally proud of our rear detachment, and their efforts to not only keep the battalion functioning but continuing to train and support A Company to assume the DRB Mission. We will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers throughout this holiday season.

All The Way!

Very Respectfully,
LTC Nick Guarino

Rear Detachment Commander's Notes

Seasons Greeting and Happy Holidays! It's hard to believe the holiday season is upon us, but that also means we are much closer to the Battalion's redeployment. I was very pleased to see many families at the Battalion FRG and VFW Post 5631 sponsored Christmas Party. Those two groups did a great job providing another opportunity for soldiers and families to come together and I would like to thank them for their extraordinary efforts.

I will ask everyone to continue to emphasize the importance of our families keeping the key callers informed of your holiday contact numbers if you plan to leave your local address. It's important that we maintain good communications throughout the deployment. This may be a

very difficult time for our families with soldiers deployed so it's important that we all look out for each other. We are fortunate at Fort Bragg because we have so many outstanding programs and services available to help all of us through deployments such as this, so don't hesitate to ask if you ever have questions or concerns.

I would like to thank all of the FRG coordinators and key callers for continuing to maintain communications with all of our families. I would also like to thank the Rear Detachment leadership from each company for everything you do and continue to do for our soldiers and their families.

Happy Holidays!
All The Way!
MAJ Todd Burns

BN FRG COORDINATOR

Soldiers and Families of the 313th,

The members of the Christmas Party Steering Committee - Paula Burns (HSC), Wendy Hollifield (A Co), Cheri Kemp (D Co), Cathy Min (B Co) and Anita Zarycki (VFW Post 5631) - would like to thank all of those who contributed to making the Christmas Party on 6 December a success. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work," and we certainly have found this to be true. Without support from the battalion family in setting up, decorating, providing food, donating prizes, helping with the children's activities, and cleaning up, there would be no way to pull such a large event together. We are also grateful for everyone who took time to gather together and share some holiday cheer.

May you all have a very joyous and blessed holiday season,
Noel Guarino,
BN FRG Coordinator

****Be sure to check out the Battalion webpage for updates, detailed information, useful links, and photos!***

www.bragg.army.mil/afvc-z/

Battalion Prayer Meeting: Meets every Wed 1200-1230 in the JFK Chapel Fellowship Hall (corner of Zabitosky and Ardennes). Children are welcome.

On Post

Family Support Programs

!!!NEW!!! DIVISION HOTLINE NUMBER

The Division automated Hotline number is accessible 24hrs a day 7 days a week. It has now been expanded to cover information on all deployment areas. **1-800-845-0759 or local 432-9015**

??ARE YOU GOING OUT OF TOWN??

??DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR KEY CALLER IS??

If your soldier is deployed and you are planning on going out of town the following information is important for you to be aware of. Please notify your key caller, in case of an emergency with your soldier the

FRG is going to need the phone number and address that you are staying at. TRICARE: when out of town different rules apply to your insurance, it is good to know the following information. If you are going on a short visit and you need medical care you need to call the out of area authorization Request **EMERGENCY CARE ONLY**, 1-888-610-7420 or 910-907-9504, authorization must be obtained prior to your appointment (need name of provider, address, and telephone number of provider, prior to call), this does not include well baby, and well women exams as well as prescription refills.

Also, if you are out of the region you normally get medical care in for more than 30 days, you must do a region transfer. TRICARE service centers are located on Sycamore Dairy Rd or Womack Army Medical center. **DEERS:** Prior to going out of town also make sure your DEERS information is correct. Spouses will need a power of attorney to make changes. **YOU MAY BE DENIED MEDICAL CARE IF YOUR INFORMATION IS NOT CURRENT.** You can contact a DEERS representative at 1-800-538-9552.

SHARE PROGRAM

POC: Melissa Schreiner, 482-0645, schreiner9@yahoo.com
From the battalion web page, go to 313th FRG link - you will find Share Program link under Miscellaneous Links.

MILITARY ONE SOURCE

From simple questions to complex issues, you can turn to Military One Source 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
www.militaryonesource.com, user ID: military
password: onesource, 1-800-655-4545.

W2s

Deployed soldiers will receive hard copies of their W2s. Rear D soldiers will not; however, they may obtain a copy from their MyPay account on AKO.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

What do you have to be thankful for? By the time you read this Thanksgiving will already be over, but that is no excuse to think of the reasons you have to be thankful. We are to be thankful every day, not just one day out of each year. **** says, " "

Several centuries ago, a famous English Bible scholar named Matthew Henry was mugged and robbed by a group of thieves who ran off with his purse. In his diary he wrote, "Let me be thankful. First, I was never robbed before. Second, although they took my purse, they didn't take my life. Third, although they took my all, it was not much. Fourth, let me be thankful because it was I who was robbed and not I who did the robbing."

The Bible teaches us that we are to be thankful no matter into what circumstances we are placed. Even though I miss my wife and daughter tremendously, I am thankful that I have a family that loves me. Even though I have had to endure sand storms, sand fleas, and the intense heat here, I am thankful because it means I have been able to enjoy

green grass and cool weather at home and will appreciate them more when I return. Even though I face danger everyday, I am thankful that I have a God in whom I trust and he tells me that he is watching over me no matter what happens.

So what about you? Are you having problems because of the deployment? I already know the answer to that one. But are you finding things to be thankful for in spite of your hardships? Are you thankful when the car or washing machine break? That means you have a car and washing machine to be thankful for when most of the people in the world don't have one. Are you thankful when the kids are running around the house being disruptive? That means you have a house big enough to run around in and your kids are healthy enough to run. Are you thankful for this deployment? It means your loved one is both physically and mentally fit enough to serve. It also means that your loved one has sense of duty to try to bring justice and peace in a land that has not has justice or peace in a long time.

Part of the way we can grow closer to God and also have a better outlook on life in general is to find the preverbal "silver lining" in the cloud. After we have found that silver lining, give thanks to God for what is precious to us.

ALPHA COMPANY

CPT Chris Hollifield
1SG William Manchester

November was another great month for the Apaches. We began by executing an outstanding field training exercise. The company conducted a night jump followed by a 20k roadmarch, and then team missions against a well trained opposing force. Every paratrooper that participated stressed their minds and bodies and came away with a great sense of accomplishment. This was the also the last opportunity to verify our teams prior to assuming Division Ready Brigade 1 with 1st Brigade. We then went directly into the Organizational Readiness Survey. The company worked many extra hours ensuring that every minute detail was taken care of in order to pass this inspection. The importance was not to just to pass, but for everyone to know that we are ready for any contingency we may be faced with. As to be expected, we passed with flying colors. Thank you to all those involved, and especially to all the family members that had to deal with all the long hours. We could not have done it without your support.

By the time this newsletter reaches you I should have already handed over the guidon of the company. It saddens me to leave the best MI Company in the Army, but I am equally pleased to know that I am turning it over to a Great American. Captain Brian and Mandy Strider are coming from the Battalion S4 shop, and I know without a doubt that they will be an outstanding command team. Good Luck!

In closing I ask for everyone to keep all our deployed soldiers and their families in your prayers. It is the time of year when most people think about being with the

ones they love, and for many the only contact possible will be a phone call or email. I am very thankful for the sacrifices that are being made.

Happy holidays to all.

All the Way!

Apache 6

The Apaches would like to congratulate the following personnel:

PFC Tullos on her promotion to SPC

PFC Clover on his promotion to SPC

SPC Britain on his recent marriage

We would also like to welcome the following new arrival to the company:

SPC Martindale

BRAVO COMPANY



Commander: CPT Chad Rambo

First Sergeant: 1SG William Hunter

Rear Det CDR: SFC Donald Wilson

Greetings Blacksheep families. Luckily it has been relatively quiet lately. You have probably seen on the news about Operation "Iron Hammer", where we used AC-130 gunships, helicopters and mortars to destroy suspected enemy positions. These positions were used to launch mortars and rockets at friendly bases. We have conducted several large-scale raids on enemy IED makers, financiers and gunmen. These have been very successful. Your loved ones are directly contributing to these efforts. Through their work, they are giving the Infantry the information they need to conduct precise targeting to kill or capture the bad guys. Without them the Brigade would not be able to accomplish it's mission.

We had the privilege of promoting six outstanding soldiers this month. SPC Kruchten (a SIGINT team member) and SPC Glosser (an Interrogator) were promoted to SGT. Both of these soldiers will make outstanding NCOs. SGT Thornton (HUMINT Team Leader) was promoted to SSG. He is quickly getting integrated into operations and doing an outstanding job as the Team Leader. SPC Gonzalez (Supply), SPC Webster (GSR Team Leader) and SPC Russell (SIGINT Team Leader) were all promoted to Corporal. All three are serving in SGT positions and doing a great job. All the pictures should shortly be on the Company web page.

The Holiday season is upon us. Though usually a very happy time for families, it can become a difficult time, especially during deployments. If you need any assistance during this holiday season, please contact the FRG or the Rear Detachment. They may not have an immediate answer for your problem, but will do all they can to put you in touch with someone that can help.

All of your paratroopers are doing fine and their spirits are high. Though we miss being away from family, especially this time of year, we try to stay positive. The current saying around here is "we're leaving Iraq next month". Though it may seem like an unbearable time until your loved one returns, it really isn't that long until we redeploy. The original plan for redeployment is still working. We will leave Iraq in mid-late January, and return to Bragg by the middle of Feb. Once we return, we will have a week or so to re-integrate, and then we will go on block leave in March. As the dates become clearer, we will make sure the FRG and RD are informed, so that you are properly informed. Remember that we will not give out exact dates yet, especially over the phone or email due to security reasons.

Thanks again for all your support and patience.

Rear Det CDR:

Hello all, I hope this finds everyone doing well. I would like to begin by saying thank you to Mrs. Rambo and the entire FRG team for their efforts and support this month. The BN Christmas party was a huge success. If anyone has digital pictures please submit them to the BN website. We are all very proud of SPC Noel for being selected as Group 7 Trooper of the month and will continue to support him as he competes for Division Trooper of the Quarter later this month. Just a reminder; W-2s will be available for downloading on MyPay from 16-26 January 2004. For all those who will be traveling out of town, be careful and please let Mrs. Rambo or I know if you'll be gone over two weeks so we can keep you informed of the latest developments. I want to encourage all the families that have soldiers deployed to be strong through this emotional time. Everyone will have "moments" where the stress will seem unbearable. That is when we will need our faith, and each other the most. The end is not that far. Do not hesitate to call day or night and I will do my best to keep you all informed.

BEST WISHES AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

AIRBORNE! ALL THE WAY! LETS GO!
RDC SFC Donald Wilson

CHARLIE COMPANY

From the Commander and 1SG: Pursuing the Enemy and the Holiday Season

Greetings once again to all families, friends, and loved ones of Charlie Company from all of us here located in central and western Iraq. We are all doing great and are getting geared up for the Christmas season. The last few weeks have been a blur of activity involving both combat operations and finding time to enjoy the holiday season. The month of November was one of the quieter months since our arrival here in Iraq. However, we have remained vigilant in our efforts, which have been met with great success. Currently, the soldiers of Charlie Company are

collecting the information vital to the removal and destruction of anti-coalition forces.

November has been a time filled with our soldiers supporting ground commanders and a numerous operations ranging from civil-military to offensive operations such as raids, air assaults, and cordon and searches against anti-coalition forces. With each day, we learn a little more about our area and its people and come closer to bringing stability to this region. The soldiers of Charlie Company continue to use the varied skills and expertise to identify and remove the threats against the 3rd Brigade and the people of southern and western Iraq. Over the last month we have spent a significant amount of time once again visiting all the soldiers at their forward operating bases. During these visits we continue to ensure our soldiers' needs are being met, equipment is provided, operations are planned and executed safely, and they are receiving the much-needed letters from home.

The best part of November had to be Thanksgiving Day. Much like any other day, operations did continue but were scaled down so that everyone could have a portion of the day for rest and enjoy a well-deserved Thanksgiving meal. Both the 1SG and myself loaded onto a Blackhawk and flew to each forward operating base to spread some holiday cheer and pass out letters from home. The best part of the trip was landing at each forward operating base and letting the soldiers know how much we appreciated their efforts and personally wishing them a Happy Thanksgiving. It was a relaxing rainy Thanksgiving Day that allowed all of us to take a moment to reflect on what we're thankful for. Each FOB provided the soldiers with an unbelievable Thanksgiving meal. Of course everyone ate entirely too much and soon found themselves spending the afternoon incapacitated. The President's visit also lifted the morale of everyone. It meant so much to know he would put himself at the same risk just to spend some time with soldiers here in Iraq. Upon returning to Fallujah, we spent the next day pulling out some Christmas decorations and the soldiers eagerly decorated a tree and hung lights and wreaths around the company area. Last weekend we had the All-American Division Band come down and play a Christmas concert. As the music played those who had entered the auditorium as soldiers were transformed into a group of people simply enjoying holiday music with each other. When the concert ended everyone in the room had smiles on their faces and a small portion of Christmas in their hearts. Spending the holiday season away from so many loved ones can often be hard, but right now we continue to remain focused on our task, knowing that our loved ones are safe, and we are serving our country amongst friends.

Your husbands, wives, sons, daughters, loved ones, and friends continue to demonstrate daily just how remarkable they are. After 3 months of long days and countless operations; the holiday season is a breath of fresh air and a moment to think about those we love at home. Most of all, as we conduct operations to destroy or capture anti-coalition forces; we can do it with a smile on our face and Christmas cheer in our hearts. Seriously, I just want you to all know that we are all doing great and not letting

the holidays and separation from loved ones get us down. We are all in high spirits, keeping our heads up, and getting the job done. Your loved ones' professionalism and hard work are vital to bringing the Iraqi people peace and stability.

As the commander of Charlie Company, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your love and support also. I cannot tell you how much it means to hear from you all, to receive the countless deliveries of boxes and letters, and to know that you all are supporting us. We are all grateful for having such wonderful families and loved ones supporting us daily. Without your support, prayers, and efforts we would not be able to accomplish the mission. As Christmas nears, we continue to be thankful for our safety and all the blessings we have been given.

Please keep your thoughts and prayers coming. Each day our soldiers continue to do a great service for our nation and the Iraqi people. Our resolve to complete our mission and return home to all of our loved ones has never been stronger. Most of all, we know that with each passing day we are a little closer to returning to those loved ones that matter most to us.

Once again, enclosed are a few pictures of our soldiers. Always out front—producing superb intelligence used to hunt down anti-coalition forces. We currently have updated pictures of Prowlers in action. Thank you for all of your continued support from home. Please keep all of our soldiers in your prayers and continue to send those letters and packages.

Thank you,
CPT Patrick R. Willis
1SG Jeffrey J. LeMaster

DELTA COMPANY

FORWARD

CPT Jemaine Kemp
1SG Rob Scott

Merry Christmas from the soldiers of Delta Company in Iraq! Time continues to pass by quickly for us, as the weeks go in and out through the routine that we've come to know as our "deployment work schedule". We celebrated Thanksgiving with a fantastic meal that was provided by the Dining Facility. The Officers of the 313th MI BN served the soldiers of the 313th turkey, ham, potatoes, stuffing, and vegetables along with the many trimmings that came along with Thanksgiving dinner. The soldiers were truly impressed at the level of detail that was put into the preparation of the meal, and the many "extras" (chocolate statues and pie displays) that were included. One soldier stated that "he didn't feel as though he was in Iraq". It was truly a great day, and if the meal wasn't enough to be thankful for, we shared other things for which we absolutely were thankful.

Delta Company care packages that were put together by the FRG have begun to trickle in through the postal system. We thank you for taking the time to put together these packages.

We have been able to find the necessary time to relax, and over the past 30 days have been able to locally purchase some items that have made it easier to mentally "get away." These items include a bench press (yes, Delta Company will be coming home a bit bigger and thicker as we pump iron daily!!), and a ping-pong table. CW2 Chrisman has bragging rights on the ping-pong table with his refined skills.

SPC Merton turned 30 and SPC Rochefort turned 28. Happy Birthday!

In keeping with Delta Company's tradition of having the finest and brightest soldiers in today's Army, many soldiers deserve to be recognized for their recent accomplishments:

We now have SSG McNeely (promoted from SGT) and SGT Fitzgerald (promoted from SPC). Both were promoted on December 1st. Congratulations! The following soldiers attended the promotion board and were recommended to hold the next rank: SPC Boos (who scored a perfect 150 points!!) and SGT Ali. Congratulations to both of you! SGT Fix was awarded an ARCOM for her efforts while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The ACE has awarded the "Top Gun" (explained in the previous newsletter) to SPC Penfold, and recently, SGT Ryals. These two have been doing outstanding work in the ACE.

There are numerous spiritual activities that are held here on the compound, and God is certainly gracious in providing for our every need (both physical and spiritual). In addition to Sunday worship services, there is also a Wednesday Bible study that is attended by numerous Delta Company soldiers. A special blessing occurred for Delta Company in that 6 soldiers were baptized. Congratulations to SGT Wesa, SGT Clark, SPC Zappa, SPC Cheverez, SPC Rosales, and PFC King! They truly demonstrated their faith by taking such a big step.

In closing, it's especially important to recognize a soldier who has been working tirelessly to support the every need of Delta Company. SSG Lurenz has absolutely been the "go to guy" for every issue that involves support to not only Delta Company, but also the Battalion. SSG Lurenz truly deserves a "thank you" from the leadership for his hard work ethic, day in and day out, in keeping us happy. Thank you SSG Lurenz!

We miss our families tremendously, and there is never a replacement. However, our Delta Company family continues to grow through hard work, and shared experiences. We look forward to the next FRG newsletter, not only in noting accomplishments that will have passed, but because it brings us another month along in our journey. Thank you again for your support, and doing your part in supporting our fine troopers. ❖

Respectfully,

*Cpt. Jemaine L. Kemp, Commander, and
1SG Scott*

Rear Detachment

CW2 Kathleen Mahoney
SFC Sheldon Chandler

I would like to thank Lt Mardis and his family for all of their support and dedication to Delta Company. All of us from D co wish you and your family the best, and you will be missed!

Our December FRG meeting/Christmas party was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to all who helped make it a memorable evening. The next FRG meeting will be 27 January 2004.

Achievements/Promotions: Congratulations to the following paratroopers who were promoted this month:

SGT Rodriguez

SSG McNeely

SGT Fitzgerald

Hails/Farewells: 1LT Mardis, SPC Rush, SPC Thomas and SSG Homer will be leaving us this month. They have served Delta Company proudly and we wish them all the best!

ECHO COMPANY (LRSD)

FORWARD

CPT James Wright

1SG Michael Brazell

Rear Detachment

CPT Brian Mulhern

SSG Johnny Thompson

CPT Wright and Five teams are deployed to Iraq fighting the war on terrorism. They are doing great things and we are all anxiously awaiting their return. The remaining three teams are preparing to deploy to Iraq in the next few weeks so by January, the entire Detachment will be together in Iraq. Our scheduled return date is still March 2004. SFC Brazell has just returned from Iraq this week. He is looking good and just as happy to be home as we are to have him back. SSG Fromer and SPC Dahlheimer returned from Iraq last month, they are preparing to move on to their future assignments.

Right now, we have SGT Richardson and SGT Brewer in PLDC, they will graduate on 11 December. SPC Guillen just graduated from Ranger School last month. We have three new soldiers. PFC Valle and PFC Wernle are brand new to the Army and SPC Aquillon spent two years in Korea on a LRS team there. We are welcoming them to the Detachment while preparing them for the deployment in the next few weeks so they are pretty busy.

I hope everyone here at home is well and anxiously awaiting the Detachment's safe return. Please make sure you keep the Detachment updated on where you are at all times so we can be sure to find you if we have to contact you for casualty notification. You can reach the Detachment at (910) 432-2110 or 432-4922.

Thanks,
CPT Brian Mulhern

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY

FORWARD

CPT Justin Fiew

1SG Daniel Wagner

Happy Holidays from Iraq! Well November has passed and so have the hot temperatures. At night the temperatures dip into the 30s, but most days are usually crisp and sunny with average temperatures in the high 60s, low 70s. A few weeks ago we endured a bad storm with wind gusts over 40 knots. We temporarily lost satellite TV reception when our dishes blew over, but we quickly recovered in time to catch key football games. Everyday our quality of life improves. At Forward Operation Base (FOB) Ridgway (DREAR), the showers at our living area now have hot, or at least warm, water. We also have a basketball court inside the 'motel' courtyard and a ping pong table built by our resident carpenters (SSG Ashburn and SGT Speis). Our PX (post exchange) store at FOB Ridgway is open for business and troopers are buying sundries, snacks, DVDs, CDs, magazines, and more. The chow has also improved. We are no longer eating T-rations. We have a real dining facility with real food! Opening day we ate steak and lobster. We had a feast on Thanksgiving: turkey, dressing, gravy, and all the trimmings. All these improvements have boosted morale significantly.

Internal Moves (inter-theater PCS's). In early November, SPC Fillers joined CPT Opyd's team at the Division Interrogation Facility. SPC Fillers and PFC Virgo are assisting the interrogation team in processing all the 'evil doers' the Division detains. It is exciting work and they are doing an outstanding job.

Hails. We welcome CW2 Ricks, SPC Shaw, and SPC Jolet to FOB Ridgway and SSG Green and SPC Dagget to Champion Main (DMAIN). They arrived in late November to assist in maintaining the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle equipment and the battalion's intelligence and electronic systems.

We have been extremely busy maintaining equipment and keeping the battalion supplied. All have contributed greatly to the overall effort. We recently visited Champion Main (DMAIN) and where SSG Duncan, SPC Rosales, SPC Pugal, and SPC Hendrix have been turning wrenches on D Company, HSC, and LRSD equipment. The support these guys provide is phenomenal. LT Davis and SFC Simpson have driven over 200 miles delivering desperately needed parts and supplies to all companies. LT Davis was thrilled to 'get out of the wire' for a change. WO1 Williams and SGT Krzysik have done a great job of keeping the battalion battery stocks healthy. SGT Taylor has epitomized the Army of One slogan. She supervises laundry turn in, ration draws, key equipment draws like gun mounts, while still pulling her share of guard mount NCOIC. Our S1 Personnel Action Center crew (CPL Denny, PFC Devera, and PFC Williams) continue to carry a heavy load. They do everything from mail pick up/delivery,

prepare promotion board paperwork, compile the battalion's personnel status reports, and process pay problems and evaluations. The Division G1 has praised their performance on several occasions as they continue to set the standard for administrative actions in the Division. Although it may not seem important, these small, yet important accomplishments ensure the battalion is capable of fulfilling its assigned tasks.

The UAV platoon continues to fly numerous missions in support of the Task Force-82 team. SSG Oneil and SSG Atkinson lead the launch and recovery team while LT van Langenberg, WO1 Sutlz, and SSG Norris run operations from Champion Main (DMAIN). This platoon holds the Army record for the most flight hours without any mishap (i.e., crash). We hope they continue to extend that record. The platoon leadership has done a great job of incorporating the five UAV soldiers from the 313th. PFCs Becker, Miller, Reed, Phillips, and Huck have become a part of the platoon and are getting valuable experience here. SGT Argueta and SGT Zdunowski have also become a part of the UAV platoon team. They are putting their UAV maintenance skills to use on the flight line.

Letters and packages continue to flow! We are amazed at the volume of packages and mail we receive. For those who have coordinated for churches and businesses to send stuff, we are extremely grateful. For all those who assisted the FRG in obtaining donations, raising funds, buying things for Christmas packages, and the boxing and mailing, thank you! We understand that takes a lot of time and effort. In a few weeks there will be a lot of happy paratroopers opening boxes. I hope everyone mailed their Christmas packages by 15 NOV. If not, the box may arrive after Christmas.

At the DREAR/ALOC site, we still await the tent equipped with phones and email lines. The phones will cost 5 cents a minute and email is free. This will improve the ability of soldiers to communicate with loved ones back home. For now we make do with the military phones (DSN lines) and military email. Other locations have limited communications (phone access and email) available to the soldiers, so please be patient.

On 1 DEC, PFC Niegum will be promoted to Specialist. PFC Niegum is attached to B Company in the Baghdad area. He has been a key member of the maintenance support team there.

Congratulations to SGT and Mrs. Quinones on the birth of their son William Antonio Quinones on 5 November. William was a healthy 9 lbs. 2oz and 22" long.

Ensure you visit the Battalion's website at <http://www.bragg.army.mil/afvc-z/>. We post pictures there on a monthly basis. You'll also find other good information there. Please pass this website address to friends and family.

Everyone is doing an outstanding job in an austere and challenging environment. Be proud of what your paratrooper is doing for the unit, the United States and the country of Iraq. The 1SG and I are extremely proud of everyone's dedication and sacrifice. It is a privilege to work with such talented and dedicated people. Thanks for all of your support and encouragement. From everyone in HSC, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

All The Way!
CPT Justin Fiew
1SG Daniel Wagner

Battalion FRG Points of Contact

Battalion Rear Detachment Team:

Acting Commander: MAJ Burns 432-8500

Acting Sergeant Major: MSG Crowe 432-8484

FRG Coordinator: Noel Guarino 436-5274

Alpha Company

Commander: CPT Hollifield 432-6521

First Sergeant: 1SG Manchester 432-6521

FRG Coordinator: Wendy Hollifield 868-3259

***Alpha Company will have a new Company Commander, CPT Brian Strider, beginning 18 DEC 03. The new FRG Coordinator will be his wife, Mandy Strider, 487-3453.**

Bravo Company Rear Detachment Team:

OIC/NCOIC: SFC Wilson 432-2344

FRG Coordinator: Janie Rambo 823-2346

Charlie Company Rear Detachment Team:

OIC: CW2 Ferguson 432-5131

NCOIC: SSG Waylan Lacy 432-9271

FRG Coordinator: Paulette R. Sifford 822-0459

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OIC: CW2 Mahoney 432-1054

NCOIC: SFC Chandler 432-1053

FRG Coordinator: Cheri Kemp 496-1434

Echo Company (LRSD) Rear Detachment Team:

OIC: CPT Mulhern 432-2110

NCOIC: SSG Thompson 432-4922

FRG Coordinator: Kelly Wright 630-6802

HSC Rear Detachment Team

OIC: CW2 Alexander 432-8403

NCOIC: MSG Perez 432-9093

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